## **REMARKS**

The present claims more clearly define the invention and as such are believed to be more patentably distinct than those in the parent application.

A three-month extension of time and associated fees are filed herewith to extend the due date from October 19, 2007 to January 19, 2008.

In view of these claims, it is submitted that the present patent application is now in condition for examination and such is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory N. Clements

Attorney for Applicants - Reg. No. 30713

CLEMENTS | WALKER The Roxborough Building

1901 Roxborough Road; Suite 300

Charlotte, North Carolina 28211

Telephone: (704) 790-3600 Facsimile: (704) 366-9744 gclements@worldpatents.com

GNC/nb

F:\WPNET\Rio Tinto\Patent\3932\RCE 12-27-07\preliminary amendment 12-27-07.doc